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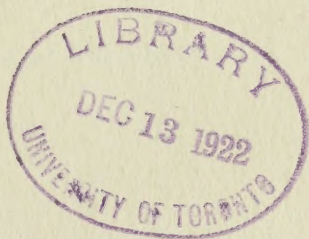
A Midsummer-Night's Dream

ACT III, SCENE I

BY

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SHAKESPEARE

A MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM

Act III, Scene I, lines 1-148

‘ Bless thee, Bottom ! bless thee ! thou art translated.’

Enter QUINCE, SNUG, BOTTOM, FLUTE, SNOUT, and
STARVELING.

Bot. Are we all met ?

Quin. Pat, pat ; and here's a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal. This green plot shall be our stage, this hawthorn-brake our tiring-house ; and we will do it in action as we will do it before the duke.

Bot. Peter Quince,—

Quin. What sayst thou, bully Bottom ?

Bot. There are things in this comedy of Pyramus and Thisby that will never please. First, Pyramus must draw a sword to kill himself, which the ladies cannot abide. How answer you that ?

Snout. By 'r lakin, a parlous fear.

Star. I believe we must leave the killing out, when all is done.

Bot. Not a whit : I have a device to make all well. Write me a prologue ; and let the prologue seem to say, we will do no harm with our swords, and that Pyramus is not killed indeed ; and, for the more better assurance, tell them that I, Pyramus, am not Pyramus, but Bottom the weaver : this will put them out of fear.

ΠΡΩΚΤΟΣ — ΚΥΔΩΝΙΔΗΣ — ΑΥΛΙΣΚΟΣ —
ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Πρ. Οἱ πάντες οὖν πάρεισι;

Κυ. πάντες νῆ Δία,
πρέπει θ' ὁ χῶρος πρὸς τὸ μελετᾶν πῶς δοκεῖς.
σκηνὴ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἡ πόα γενήσεται,
ἐνσκευάσασθαι δ' ἦν θέλη τις, δεῦρ' ἵτω
ἐς τὴν λόχμην· τὸ δρᾶμα δ', ὥσπερ καὶ ποεῖν
Θησεῶς παρόντος μέλλομεν, ποιητέον.

Πρ. ἀλλ' ὦ Κυδωνίδιον —

Κυ. τί φῆς, ὦ γεννάδα;

Πρ. ἔνεστίν ἄττ' ἐν τῇδε τῇ κωμῳδίᾳ
ἂ πάντες ἂν μέμφοινθ'· ὁ μὲν γὰρ Πύραμος
ἀπολῶν ἑαυτὸν τὴν μάχαιραν ἔλκεται,
γυναιξὶν οὐκ ἀνεκτόν· εἶτα πῶς λέγεις;

Αὐ. νῆ τὴν κορίσκην, σχέτλιον ἀποφαίνεις φόβον.

Χο. ἐλλειπτέον τοι τοὺς φόβους ἀμωσγέπως.

Πρ. μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' ἐπίνοιαν τήνδ' ἔχω νουβυστικήν·
πρόλογον σύ μοι σύγγραψον, ὅστις σημανεῖ
ὥς ταῖς μαχαίραις οὐδὲν ἀδικοῦμεν πάννυ,
ὁ Πύραμος δ' οὐκ ἔτεδν ὧδ' ἀπώλετο.
καὶ προσθές, ἵνα τὸ πρᾶγμα πιστότερον φανῇ,
“ ὁ Πύραμος δ' οὐκ ἐστὶν ὄντως Πύραμος,
μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ Πρωκτός, σκυτοτόμος ὢν τὴν τέχνην ”.
σάφ' ἴσθι, παύσει ταυταγὶ φοβουμένας.

Quin. Well, we will have such a prologue, and it shall be written in eight and six.

Bot. No, make it two more : let it be written in eight and eight.

Snout. Will not the ladies be afeard of the lion ?

Star. I fear it, I promise you.

Bot. Masters, you ought to consider with yourselves : to bring in,—God shield us!—a lion among ladies, is a most dreadful thing ; for there is not a more fearful wild-fowl than your lion living, and we ought to look to it.

Snout. Therefore another prologue must tell he is not a lion.

Bot. Nay, you must name his name, and half his face must be seen through the lion's neck ; and he himself must speak through, saying thus, or to the same defect, ' Ladies,' or, ' Fair ladies,' ' I would wish you,' or, ' I would request you,' or, ' I would entreat you, not to fear, not to tremble : my life for yours. If you think I come hither as a lion, it were pity of my life : no, I am no such thing : I am a man as other men are ; ' and there indeed let him name his name, and tell them plainly he is Snug the joiner.

Quin. Well, it shall be so. But there is two hard things ; that is, to bring the moonlight into a chamber ; for, you know, Pyramus and Thisby meet by moonlight.

Snug. Doth the moon shine that night we play our play ?

Κυ. πρόλογος ἄρ' ἔσται, καὶ τριμέτροις γεγράψεται.

Πρ. ἐνός γε καὶ δεῦ· τετραμέτροις μᾶλλον γράφου.

Αὐ. τὰς δ' οὖν γυναῖκας οὐ φοβήσῃ χά' ἰέων ;

Χο. δέδοικα νῆ Δί' —

Πρ. ὠγαθοὶ φροντίζετε·

τὸ γὰρ ἰέοντα παρὰ γυναῖκας εἰσάγειν —

Ἄπολλον ἀποτρόπαι', ἀτεχνῶς ὑπερφυές·

ὥς τῶν πετεινῶν ἐστὶ τῶν ἄλλων πολὺ

δεινότατος ὁ ἰέων· τοῦτο δὴ προσκεπτέον.

Αὐ. οὐκοῦν διδάξει πρόλογος ἄλλος ὥς ἰέων

οὐκ ἔστιν —

Πρ. ἀλλ' ὅπως ἐπονομασθήσεται,

καὶ τοῦ προσώπου γ' ἐκκαλύψας θῆμισιν

διὰ τῆς λεοντῆς, ταῦτα παρακόψας ἐρεῖ·

“ φίλαι γυναῖκες ” ἢ “ γυναῖκες πάγκαλαι,

θέλοιμ' ἂν ” ἢ “ χρήζοιμ' ἂν ” ἢ καὶ “ λίσσομαι

θαρρεῖν ἀπάσας, μηδ' ὑπὸ τοῦ δέους τρέμειν.

ὄμηρον ἔχετέ μ'· εἰ γὰρ ὥς φύσει ἰέων

ἦκοιμι, τοῦ ζῆν οὐκ ἂν εἶην ἄξιος.

οὐκ ἔστι ταῦτ', ἀλλ' εἰμὶ καθάπερ ἄτεροι

ἄνθρωπος·” ὄνομα δ' ἀγγελεῖ, φράζων ἀπλῶς

ὥς οὐ ἰέων ὄδ', ἀλλ' ὁ τέκτων Γώνιος.

Κυ. ἔστω τάδ'· ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἄπορα λείπεται δύο·

τὸ μὲν εἰς τὸν οἶκον φῶς σελήνης εἰσάγειν·

τὸν Πύραμον γὰρ φασὶ τῇ Θίσβῃ τότε

ἐν πανσελήνῳ τὴν συνουσίαν ποιεῖν.

Αὐ. ὦρα δὲ πανσέληνος ἢ τοῦ δράματος ;

Bot. A calendar, a calendar ! look in the almanack ; find out moonshine, find out moonshine.

Quin. Yes, it doth shine that night.

Bot. Why, then may you leave a casement of the great chamber-window, where we play, open ; and the moon may shine in at the casement.

Quin. Ay ; or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorn, and say he comes to disfigure, or to present, the person of Moonshine. Then, there is another thing : we must have a wall in the great chamber ; for Pyramus and Thisby, says the story, did talk through the chink of a wall.

Snug. You can never bring in a wall. What say you, Bottom ?

Bot. Some man or other must present Wall ; and let him have some plaster, or some loam, or some rough-cast about him, to signify wall ; and let him hold his fingers thus, and through that cranny shall Pyramus and Thisby whisper.

Quin. If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit down, every mother's son, and rehearse your parts. Pyramus, you begin : when you have spoken your speech, enter into that brake ; and so every one according to his cue.

Enter PUCK, behind.

Puck. What hempen home-spuns have we swaggering here,
So near the cradle of the fairy queen ?

- Πρ. τίς ἀστρονομικός; ἐξέτασον τὰ βιβλία.
 φέρε δὴ, τίς ἀνύσας τὴν σελήνην μοι φανεί;
 Κυ. ἔγωγε· πανσέληνος οὔσα τυγχάνει.
- Πρ. οὐκοῦν ἀνοίξεις τὴν θυρίδα τοῦ δώματος
 ἐν ᾗ τὸ θέατρον, ὥστε διαλάμπειν τὸ φῶς.
- Κυ. εὐγ'· ἡ φερέτω τις ἀσπαλάθους καὶ λαμπάδα,
 καὶ τὴν σελήνην εἰσάγειν ἡκισμένην
 φάτω παρελθών. τοῦτο δ' αὖ τὸ δεύτερον,
 ὥς ἐς τὸ δῶμα δεῖ κομίζειν τειχίον·
 ὁ Πύραμος γὰρ ἦ τε Θίσβη τειχίον
 λαλοῦντ' ἐχρῆσθον, ὥς ὁ λόγος, τρυπήματι.
- Αὐ. ἀλλ' οὐδέποτε' ἂν τις τειχίον γ' ἂν εἰσφέρει.
 ὦ Πρώκτ', ἔχεις τι;
- Πρ. τείχιον μιμήσεται
 τῶν ὑποκριτῶν τις, πηλὸν ἢ πλίνθους ἔχων
 ἢ χάλικα τὴν ἐσθῆτα καταπεπασμένος,
 τοῦ τειχίου σημεῖον· ὁ μὲν οὖν τὴν χέρα
 ὠδὶ παρέξει, τὸ δὲ παρὰ τοὺς δακτύλους
 ἐντρυλλιεῖτον ὥσπερ εἰ διὰ τρήματος.
- Κυ. χωρεῖ τὰ πράγματ', εἴπερ εὖ καὶ τοῦτ' ἔχει.
 ἄγε δὴ κάθησθε καὶ μελετᾶτε τοὺς στίχους
 ἀπαξάπαντες· Πύραμ', ἄρξαι τῶν λόγων,
 ἔπειτα λέξας ὑπαγε δεῦρ' ἐς τὴν λόχμην,
 καὶ πάντες ἀκολουθεῖτε κατὰ τὸ βιβλίον.

ΕΡΩΣ.

τίνας ποτ' ἄνδρες ἀμνοκῶντες καὶ παχεῖς
 θείας χαμεύνης ὧδε σαυλοῦνται πέλας;

What, a play toward ! I'll be an auditor ;
An actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

Quin. Speak, Pyramus.—Thisby, stand forth.

Bot. *Thisby, the flowers have odious savours sweet,—*

Quin. Odorous, odorous.

Bot.—odours savours sweet :

So hath thy breath, my dearest Thisby dear.

But hark, a voice ! stay thou but here awhile,

And by and by I will to thee appear. [*Exit.*

Puck. A stranger Pyramus than e'er play'd here !

Flu. Must I speak now ? [*Exit.*

Quin. Ay, marry, must you ; for you must understand, he goes but to see a noise that he heard, and is to come again.

Flu. *Most radiant Pyramus, most lily-white of hue,*

Of colour like the red rose on triumphant brier,

Most brisky juvenal, and eke most lovely Jew,

As true as truest horse that yet would never tire,

I'll meet thee, Pyramus, at Ninny's tomb.

Quin. 'Ninus' tomb,' man. Why, you must not speak that yet ; that you answer to Pyramus : you speak all your part at once, cues and all. Pyramus, enter : your cue is past ; it is 'never tire.'

μῶν δρᾶμα τούτι; φέρε θεάσωμαι λαθών,
ἢ καὶ μετασχῶ γ', ἣν τι κωμῳδεῖν δοκῇ.

Κυ. Πύραμε, λέγοις ἄν· καὶ σύ, Θίσβη, δεῦρ' ἄγε.

Πρ. πνοὴ μὲν ἀνθῶν ἡ δυσσομοτάτη κλύει—

Κυ. ἔα· οὐκ ἡδύοσμος;

Πρ. —ἡδυοσμοτάτη κλύει,

ἡ σὴ δ' ἄρ' ὥφελ' ὦ φίλον Θίσβης κάρα.
ἀλλ' ἡσθόμην γὰρ φθέγμα, μείνον ἐνθάδε,
ἐγὼ δέ σοι τούντεῦθεν ἐκφανήσομαι.

Ἐρ. ἀτοπώτατός γε τῶν πρὶν ὄντων Πυράμων.

Αὐ. νῦν δεῖ μ' ἀγορεύειν;

Κυ. νῆ τὸν Ἀπόλλω δεῖ σέ γε

νυνί· ψόφον γὰρ ὀψόμενος, ὃν ἥσθετο,
ἀπῆλθε, καὶ σάφ' ἴσθι νοστήσει πάλιν.

Αὐ. ὦ καλλίφεγγες Πύραμ', ὦ λευκόπτερε,
ὦ τὴν χροῖαν οἶνωπός, οἷαπερ ῥοδὰ
ἀγάλλεται 'ν ῥάμνοισιν, ὦ στιβαρώτατε
νεανιῶν, καὶ Νανιδῶν ἐρατώτατε,

πίσθ' ὥσπερ ἵππος, ὅς γε μὴ κάμοι ποτέ,
πόδα σοὶ ξυνάψω πρὸς τάφοις Εὐηθιδοῦ.

Κυ. Εὐελπιδοῦ τόδ', ὦ μέλ'· οὐ μὴ ταῦτ' ἐρεῖς,
ἀλλ' ὕστερόν ποτ' ἀποκρινεῖ τῷ Πυράμῳ;
νῦν γὰρ συνείρεις πολὺ τι χρῆμα ῥήσεων
καὶ τόνδ' ἐρεῖν μέλλοντα περιορᾷς πάνν.
ὁ Πύραμος παρελθέ· τῆς γὰρ ἐσβολῆς
ἡμαρτες ἤδη, μετὰ τὸ “ μὴ κάμοι ποτέ”.

Flu. O!—*As true as truest horse, that yet would never tire.*

Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass's head.

Bot. *If I were, fair Thisby, I were only thine.*

Quin. O monstrous! O strange! we are haunted.

Pray, masters! fly, masters!—Help! [*Exeunt Clowns.*

Puck. I'll follow you, I'll lead you about a round,

Through bog, through bush, through brake, through brier:

Sometime a horse I'll be, sometime a hound,

A hog, a headless bear, sometime a fire;

And neigh, and bark, and grunt, and roar, and burn,

Like horse, hound, hog, bear, fire, at every turn. [*Exit.*

Bot. Why do they run away? this is a knavery of them to make me afraid.

Re-enter SNOUT.

Snout. O Bottom, thou art changed! what do I see on thee?

Bot. What do you see? you see an ass-head of your own, do you? [*Exit SNOUT.*

Re-enter QUINCE.

Quin. Bless thee, Bottom! bless thee! thou art translated. [*Exit.*

Bot. I see their knavery: this is to make an ass of me; to fright me, if they could. But I will not stir from this place, do what they can: I will walk up and down here, and I will sing, that they shall hear I am not afraid.

Αὐ. εἶεν·

πίσθ' ὥσπερ ἵππος, ὅς γε μὴ κάμοι ποτέ.

Πρ. ἐν σοί γ' ἂν εἶην, πιστὸς ὦν, Θίσβη, μόνη.

Κυ. ὦ φοβερόν, ὦ θαυμάσιον, ὦ θεῖον τέρας.

ιοὺ ἰού·

εὔχεσθε, φεύγετ', ἀποδιδράσκειτ', ὦγαθοί.

Ἐρ. ἄγε νυν τούτοισιν ὁμαρτήσω διαφοιτῶντάς τε κυκήσω
διὰ τέλμα λόχμην δρυμὸν ἀκάνθας, τοτὲ μὲν μορφὴν
κυνὸς ἐνδύς,

τοτὲ δ' αὖ πῶλος, τοτὲ χοιρίον ὦν, ἄρκτος τε καρά-
τομος ἢ πῦρ,

εἴθ' ἅμ' ὑλακτῶν ἢ χρεμετίζων, γρύζων βρυχώμενος
αἴθων

ὥς κύνα πῶλον χοιρίον ἄρκτον πῦρ ἐκμιμούμενος ἐξῆς.

Πρ. τί δαὶ παθόντες ἀποτρέχουσι; μὴν ἄρα
ὦδ' οἱ κόβαλοι καταφοβῆσαί μ' ἤλπισαν;

Αὐ. ὦ Πρωκτέ, δεινῶς εἶ μετεσκευασμένος.

τί σ' ἔχονθ' ὀρώ;

Πρ. μὰ Δί' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ὄνου σκιάν.

Κυ. ὦ δαιμόνι' ἀνδρῶν, ὥς φύσιν μετήλλαχας.

Πρ. ὀρώ τὸ σόφισμα· μορμολύττεσθαι μ' ἄρα
ἔμελλον, εἰ δύναιντό γ'. ἅττ' ἂν οὖν δοκῇ
δρώντων· ἐγὼ δ' οὐχ ὥς ὄνος καθήσομαι
λύρας ἄπωθεν, ἀλλὰ πάντως ἐνθαδὶ
μενῶ, μελῳδῶν περιπατῶν τ' ἄνω κάτω,
αὐτοῖς δ' ἄρ' ἔσομαι δῆλος ὅτι θαρρῶ πάννυ.

The ousel-cock, so black of hue,
With orange-tawny bill,
The throstle with his note so true,
The wren with little quill,—

Tita. [*Awaking.*] What angel wakes me from my
flowery bed ?

Bot. The finch, the sparrow, and the lark,
The plain-song cuckoo gray,
Whose note full many a man doth mark,
And dares not answer, nay ;

for indeed, who would set his wit to so foolish a bird ?
who would give a bird the lie, though he cry ‘cuckoo’
never so ?

Tita. I pray thee, gentle mortal, sing again:
Mine ear is much enamour’d of thy note ;
So is mine eye enthralled to thy shape ;
And thy fair virtue’s force perforce doth move me
On the first view, to say, to swear, I love thee.

κόψιχ' ὦ μελανοπτερὺξ
ράμφος πυρρὸν ὄμως ἔχων,
εὐηχὲς τε μέλος κίχλη,
λεπτὸν τ' ὄρχιλ' αἰείδων,—

ΑΦΡΟΔΙΤΗ.

- Πρ. τίς θεὸς ἐγείρει μ' ἀνθεμώδους ἐκ λέχους ;
ὦ στρούθ', ὦ κόρυδ', ὦ σπίν', ὦ
κόκκυξ γλαῦκε νόμους ἀπλῶς
ἰείς, οὓς θαμά τις κλύων
ἀρνεῖσθαι πόσις ὀκνεῖ·
τίς γὰρ φράσσαιτ' ἂν ἡλίθιον τόδ' ὄρνεον ;
τίς ἂν ἀνταγορεύοι, κοκκύσαντι καὶ μακρά ;
Ἀφ. θνητοῦ δέμας γεῖναῖον, ἄσόν μοι πάλιν·
τὰ μὲν γὰρ ὦτα σῶν ἐπιτέθυμμαι μελῶν,
τὰ δ' ὄμμαθ' ἥττων εἰμὶ τῆς εὐμορφίας·
τῆς σῆς δ' ὅτ' ἀρετῆς εἶδον ἰσχυρὰν χάριν
ἦλων κατ' ἰσχύν, καὶ μιᾶς ἀπ' ὄψεως
ἦ μὴν ἐρᾶν σοῦ φημί, καπόμενυμί γε.

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